

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-25

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O P 151819Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8535

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 3721

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE SY XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN-LEBANON

1. KING WAS BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME EARLY EVENING OF JULY 15.
WHILE CONVERSTION WAS FIXED ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, I ASKED HIM
WHETHER HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ASAD AND IF SO WHETHER
THERE WAS ANYTHING NEW HE COULD PASS ON TO ME.

2. KING SAID THAT THEIR HOT LINE SEEMS TO BE IN BAD SHAPE SO
HE CALLED ASAD OVER THE OPEN LINE.THEIR TALK AS A RESULT WAS
NECESSARILY VERY GUARDED.

3. HE THEN SAID THAT ASAD SEEMS TO BE EXTREMELY WORRIED RIGHT NOW.
KHADDAM IN MOSCOW HAD A REAL KNOCK DOWN DRAG OUT FIGHT WITH
THE SOVIETS, ACCORDING
TO THE KING. THE SOVIETS THREATENED SYRIA A NUMBER OF WAYS
INSISTING THAT SYRIA MUST PULL OUT OF LEBANON. THE SOVIETS WANT
SYRIA TO ALTER THE WHOLE COURSE OF ITS ACTION IN LEBANON. THE
ASAD TOLD THE KING THAT SYRIA WAS DEALING WITH
THE LEBANONESE PROBLEM AS A MATTER OF GREAT NATIONAL IMPORTANCE
TO SYRIA AND THAT SYRIA WOULD NOT CHANGE OR COMPROMISE UNDER THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES. KING CLAIMED THAT ASAD SAID THAT HE WILL
INSIST ON CARRYING ON WITH HIS PRESENT EFFORT.

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4. I THEN ASKED THE KING WHETHER ASAD HAD HAD ANYTHING MORE TO SAY ON THE POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT. KING SAID THAT ASAD HAD BEEN CAREFUL BUT DID CLAIM THAT THE SOVIETS SEEMED DETERMINED TO TURN THE LEBANON INTO ANOTHER "ANGOLA" WHICH APARENTLY IS WHAT HAS GIVEN ASAD AND KING THE LEAD TO TALK ABOUT "CUBAN" INTERVENTION. KING SAID THAT I MAY WELL BE SOMEONE ELSE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE IN MIND. I MENTIONED LIBYA AND THE KING SAID HE DID NOW KNOW.

5. KING THEN INDICATED THAT AS A RESULT OF HIS TALKS WITH ASAD HE KNEW

THAT THE SYRIANS WERE SURE THAT A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT WAS GOING ON IN TRYING TO RESUPPLY MILITARILY THE PALESTINIANS AND THE LEFT IN LEBANON. HE SAID THAT SYRIA KNOWS THAT THE IRAQIS HAVE HAD MANY SUPPLY FLIGHTS TO EGYPT SENDING ARMS THERE FOR THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON. IN ADDITION SOVIET EQUIPMENT IS GETTING IN BY OTHER MEANS. INCLUDING A NUMBER OF EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE CARGO FLIGHTS FROM EAST GERMANY.

6. ASAD IS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE IRAQI BUILD UP ON HIS BORDERS WHICH DOES NOT SHOW SIGNS OF ABATING ACCORDING TO KING.

7. KING SAID THAT ASAD IS NOW CONVINCED THAT RECENT ARAB LEAGUE MEETING WAS JUST A STALL TACTIC BY ARAFAT TO BUY MORE TIME.

8. KING SAYS THAT ABDUL HALIM KHADDAM IS BEING SENT TO JORDAN TOMORROW OR SATURDAY TO EXPLAIN IN MORE DETAIL EXACTLY WHAT SYRIAN ASSESSMENT IS AND WHAT SYRIA BELIEVES IS GOING ON. KING ALSO SAID THAT HE HAS FILLED IN SAUDI CHIEF OF STAFF WHO IS CURRENTLY VISITING JORDAN ON SITUATION IN LEBANON. IF NECESSARY HE WILL SEND A SPECIAL EMISSARY TO SAUDI FOLLOWING KHADDAM'S VISIT HERE. KING TOLD ME THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT SADAT AND NUMEIRI WILL BE IN SAUDI ARABIA THIS WEEKEND AND FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW IT WOULD BE VALUABLE FOR SYRIANS TO KEEP SAUDIS FULLY INFORMED.

9. WITHOUT MAKING A BIG THING OF IT IN SOURCE OF CONVERSATION I REPEATED TO KING WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING ANY SOLID EVIDENCE HE MIGHT TURN UP OF POTENTIAL CUBAN INVOLVEMENT.

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10. KING ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT ASAD WAS AWARE KING KEEPING US INFORMED.

11. SUBSEQUENT TO PREPARING THE ABOVE, NEW MINISTER OF COURT AMER KHAMMASH CALLED ME IN TO SEE HIM. HE SAID KING HAD CHARGED HIM TO PROVIDE ME WITH SOME MORE DETAILS--KING HAD SPOKEN WITH ME OVER PALACE MICROWAVE LINK TO AQABA. BASICALLY KHAMMASH GAVE ME SAME INFORMATION THAT KING HAD PASSED ON. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD

BEEN OVER 40 EGYPTIAN FLIGHTS TO EAST GERMANY. HE ALSO ADDED IN
CONFIDENCE THAT KING WAS TOYING WITH IDEA OF TRYING TO SEE SADAT
IN EGYPT ABOUT THE PROBLEM IN THE HOPE THAT IT CAN BE HELPFUL.
KAHMMASH BELIEVES THAT SAUDIS CAN BE MORE USEFUL IN THIS THAN
ANYONE ELSE AND HE SAID THAT KING HOPED US WOULD BE
TALKING WITH BOTH SAUDIS AND EGYPTIANS IN AN EFFORT TO TRY TO
STOP THEM AND OTHER ARABS WITTINGLY OR UNWITTINGLY FROM COOPERATING
WITH SOVIETS WHO SEEM BENT ON EXPANDING THE CONFLICT AND POSSIBLY
ON STIMULATING OR SPONSORING INTERVENTION IN LEBANON ON THE
ANGOLA MODEL. KHAMMASH IS PERSONALLY SCEPTICAL THAT AFTER OUR
RECENT WARNINGS TO CAIRO CUBANS WOULD TRY INTERVENING IN LEBANON
BUT HE THINKS SOVIETS MIGHT TRY USING SOMEONE ELSE---HE HAS NOT
SPECIFIC.
PICKERING

SECRET

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